

# DAILY BULLETIN

Published weekdays by the United States Mission to the United Nations in Geneva

SEPTEMBER 19, 2006

## BUSH PLANS TO FOCUS ON MIDEAST DEMOCRACY AT UNITED NATIONS

President will address 61st session of U.N. General Assembly ..... 1

## U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY ANNOUNCES PROJECTS IN ASIA

Grants intended to support initiatives in Indonesia, Vietnam, China..... 3

## U.S., CHINA PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS COOPERATE ON CLEAN ENERGY

Clean Coal Forum in Shanxi province targets coal gasification technologies ..... 4

## WHITE HOUSE SPONSORS FIRST INTERNATIONAL LITERACY CONFERENCE

First lady announces \$1 million contribution to UNESCO reading program ..... 6

## BUSH PLANS TO FOCUS ON MIDEAST DEMOCRACY AT UNITED NATIONS

President will address 61st session of U.N. General Assembly

By Judy Aita  
Washington File United Nations  
Correspondent

United Nations -- While he is in New York for the opening of the 61st U.N. General Assembly, President Bush will focus on his "freedom agenda," especially his positive vision for the Middle East, in both his speech to the assembly and during private meetings, according to senior administration officials.

"Because they know that freedom will defeat them, terrorists, tyrants and traitors to humanity are doing all they can to stop the expansion of freedom. The Middle East is the central battleground. The bright, democratic future that we see for the Middle East [is] in contra-distinction to some who have almost a backward looking vision for that region," a senior official who asked not to be identified told reporters September 15 via teleconference.

In his speech to the General Assembly September 19, Bush plans to emphasize the need to work with democratically elected governments such as those in Lebanon and Iraq to help strengthen their democratic institutions as well as help people in other countries achieve their freedom, the officials said. The president will be urging the international community to

help those in the Middle East to realize that desire for freedom.

The freedom agenda is not for the Middle East alone, although the region -- particularly in Iraq, Lebanon and the Palestinian Territories -- is the main battleground in the struggle for democracy at this time, the officials said.

The president will have "in each case -- Iraq, Lebanon and the Palestinian Authority . . . very concrete suggestions about the path forward for realizing his vision of freedom and the role that the international community can play in that," one administration official said.

Iran also will be addressed in the president's speech. The Iranian people have the potential to be part of Bush's positive vision for the region, the officials said.

Bush will not be meeting with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who also will address the General Assembly on September 19. Iran's uranium enrichment program and its refusal to meet the Security Council's August 31 deadline to halt enrichment is expected to be a key topic during the assembly.

"We don't have contacts with the Iranians, and we're not going to have it, unless and until they suspend their enrichment-related activities," one official said.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED WITH LEADERS OF OTHER DEMOCRACIES

Even though military and police efforts are needed to combat terrorists, the ultimate weapons in the War on Terror are justice, freedom and opportunity -- topics that will be discussed in the president's private meetings September 18 with Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi of Malaysia, President Antonio Saca of El Salvador, President Ricardo Maduro of Honduras, President Jakaya Kikwete of Tanzania, and on September 19 with President Jalal Talabani of Iraq, the official said.

Malaysia, the official said, is a democratic country with a moderate form of Islamic government and "a very good demonstration of how Islam and democracy are fully compatible concepts."

Twenty years ago, El Salvador was torn by factional strife with insurgency, death squads and violence. Democracy seemed impossible, he said. But for the past 15 years El Salvador has been "a very successful democratic country where people who were former combatants have managed to reintegrate into what is a very prosperous, successful society."

Tanzania is "an emerging democracy in Africa, but there are serious concerns about terrorists using its terrain. So the president will engage with President Kikwete on the challenges of fighting terrorism in East Africa," the official said.

The president also will be participating in a meeting of the U.N. Democracy Fund, a group that was created in 2006 at the suggestion of President Bush to provide a way for established democracies to help new democracies and strengthen democratic institutions around the world.

The group of about 25 nations will meet for the first time with several nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) working on democracy issues such as training election observers or defending political prisoners. The group will discuss how the fund can support the work of NGOs worldwide.

---

## U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY ANNOUNCES PROJECTS IN ASIA

---

### Grants intended to support initiatives in Indonesia, Vietnam, China

By Susan Krause  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) announced September 15 that it has awarded four grants to fund projects in Indonesia, Vietnam and China.

The grants will fund technical assistance and investment analysis in areas as diverse as emergency preparedness, aviation system modernization and water supply management, the agency said.

The agency's goal is to support the development of modern infrastructure and encourage fair and open trading environments in developing and middle-income countries.

### EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS IN INDONESIA

A technical assistance grant of \$391,000 to Badan Meteorologi dan Geofisika (BMG), Indonesia's meteorology and geophysics agency, will help support the development of a reliable emergency communications system for use during natural disasters and other hazardous situations.

With a large population scattered across an archipelago of more than 17,000 islands, the Indonesian government has faced tremendous obstacles in establishing a reliable means of conveying information rapidly to the public during emergencies.

The country lies in one of the world's most active zones of seismic activity, and in 2006 alone suffered five major earthquakes, resulting in hundreds dead and thousands displaced. Indonesia bore the brunt of the damage from the December 2004 earthquake and subsequent tsunami in the Indian Ocean region.

"This agreement demonstrates the sustained U.S. government commitment to both develop a comprehensive tsunami warning system for the Indian Ocean and aid Indonesia in its recovery from the 2004 tsunami and subsequent disasters," said John Heffern, chargé d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta.

Grant funds will be used to support reliable communications between BMG and Bakornas, Indonesia's national disaster-management agency, and to connect eight planned regional operations centers with the national operations center in Jakarta. The project also will set up a notification and communications system for first responders and local government authorities and will automate control of coastal warning sirens in high-risk zones.

The new project follows a USTDA grant of \$650,000 to BMG in 2005. That grant provided technical assistance and operational support for BMG's national operations center. USTDA has awarded more than \$7.7 million for 19 reconstruction projects in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand related to the 2004 tsunami.

### UPGRADING INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN VIETNAM

USTDA awarded two technical assistance grants totaling \$795,000 in Vietnam to help that nation's airline industry meet international efficiency standards and to modernize information systems in its finance ministry.

A \$523,000 grant to Vietnam Airlines Corporation will help the carrier meet requirements of the "Simplifying the Business" program of the International Air Traffic Association (IATA). The initiative is intended to establish international consistency and greater cost efficiency in the airline industry's handling of commercial transactions via the Internet.

By meeting IATA standards in electronic ticketing processes and freight handling, Vietnam Airlines will be able to enter into code-sharing arrangements with other international carriers, according to USTDA. Unisys Corporation of Blue Bell, Pennsylvania, will provide assistance to the airline under the USTDA grant.

A second grant of \$272,000 will help Vietnam's finance ministry create a modern information system for financial statistics based on International Monetary Fund standards. The ministry has approved a plan to complete the system by 2010.

The new system is expected to provide "reliable, transparent and up-to-date trade and economic data consistent with the expectations of international investors and financial institutions," according to USTDA.

#### MANAGING STORM WATER IN CHINA

USTDA awarded a grant of \$533,016 to the Beijing Water Authority (BWA), partially funding a study that will evaluate the viability of an integrated management system for storm-water runoff in China's capital city.

In collaboration with EDAW Inc., a San Francisco-based corporation that provides services including environmental impact assessment and resource management planning, BWA plans to develop a system that will use computer modeling and water sensors to assess accumulation of storm water and diversion of runoff into "combined outflow or treatment plants." Through this process, local precipitation could be used to increase the country's water supply.

The USTDA grant also will fund a pilot study of a system prototype.

The grant is intended to improve China's ability to manage water demand and relieve water scarcity in northeastern China.

USTDA has funded more than 80 projects in China since 2001, supporting significant development objectives. The development agency has focused in particular on projects in the areas of transportation, energy and environment.

---

#### U.S., CHINA PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS COOPERATE ON CLEAN ENERGY

---

##### Clean Coal Forum in Shanxi province targets coal gasification technologies

By Cheryl Pellerin  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – U.S. and Chinese leaders from the public and private sectors met September 12-13 in Shanxi province – an informal gathering of technology and policy experts – to exchange views on using and promoting clean coal technology.

The meeting was arranged by the Jackson Hole [Wyoming] Center for Global Affairs and the Peoples Government of Shanxi Province in China, and sponsored by the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental advocacy group, and other energy and environmental organizations.

The focus of the China Clean Coal Forum – co-chaired by Yu Youjun, governor of Shanxi province, and Grant Larson, president of the Wyoming state Senate – was coal gasification, a growing alternative to coal combustion that is a more efficient and more environmentally friendly way to produce electricity and other energy products from coal.

"The collaboration between Shanxi province and the state of Wyoming," said Justin Swift, deputy assistant secretary for international affairs in the Office of Fossil Energy at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), "is an excellent example of state-to-state support."

At the meeting, Swift gave an overview of coal gasification technology, its worldwide capacity and growth, and DOE's gasification research and development program.

The Clean Coal Forum is the fifth in a series of unofficial meetings held to develop and implement an agenda for U.S.-China clean energy cooperation. The meetings arose from an alliance between the largest coal-producing regions in the United States and China – the state of Wyoming and the province of Shanxi.

## STATE-TO-STATE COLLABORATION

Jackson Hole – in the 1800s the term “hole” described a high mountain valley – is a spectacular area in northwest Wyoming, known for its proximity to three national parks, vast mountainscapes, abundant wildlife and world-class skiing.

It is also home to the Jackson Hole Center for Global Affairs, whose forward-looking membership created the U.S.-China Clean Energy Initiative.

The initiative began in 2003, when Jackson Hole resident John Turner, assistant secretary of the State Department's Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs from 2001 to 2005, invited Shanxi officials to his hometown to discuss environmental issues important to both regions.

Three meetings took place in 2003 and 2004, in Shanxi and Jackson Hole, covering a range of energy topics and involving experts and officials from both regions.

“The doors have opened up in the age of globalization,” said David Wendt, president of the Jackson Hole Center for Global Affairs, “to include so many different potential partners from so many sectors on common issues.”

The initiative is also a vehicle for involving the private sector, Wendt said, which has “the resources and technology to make the necessary investments in clean energy priorities.”

The collaborators in Wyoming and Shanxi, Wendt said, “identified a strong interest in integrated gasification combined cycle, a coal gasification process, not coal combustion, that is by far the most energy-efficient process, and efficient in terms of other resources – water, for example – in using coal for electric power generation.”

## COAL GASIFICATION

In gasification, coal (or any other carbon-based feedstock) reacts with steam and oxygen or air at high temperature and pressure in an oxygen-lean atmosphere.

The process produces synthesis gas, or syngas, which is mainly carbon monoxide and hydrogen, and smaller amounts of carbon dioxide and methane. Inorganic materials in the coal, like ash and metals, are converted to an inert material called slag that is used in construction and building.

Syngas is used to power turbines to generate electricity, and the integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC) is one way to do this. The IGCC process combines two “cycles,” meaning two kinds of turbines – combustion and steam. First, the syngas is burned in the combustion turbine, which drives a generator to produce electricity. The leftover “flue” gas is fed into a heat-recovery steam-generating unit, which extracts energy from the heated gas and produces steam. The steam feeds a steam turbine, which also drives a generator to produce electricity.

“In an IGCC plant,” said Gary Stiegel, technology manager for gasification at the DOE National Energy Technology Laboratory in Pennsylvania, “the combustion [cycle] typically produces two thirds of the electricity and one third comes from the steam cycle.”

## MANAGING CARBON DIOXIDE

Because IGCC produces most of the electricity from the combustion cycle rather than the steam cycle, the process is more efficient and uses less water than standard coal combustion. There are other environmental benefits, like fewer emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), sulfur and nitrogen oxides and particulates.

The ease of capturing carbon dioxide – a critical part of the CO<sub>2</sub> capture-and-storage process called carbon sequestration, which can help take the greenhouse gas CO<sub>2</sub> out of the atmosphere – is another benefit of IGCC.

Meeting participants were interested in IGCC and carbon sequestration, Wendt said, “because the two are linked. IGCC is probably the most cost-effective technology for separating and capturing carbon dioxide, so it’s carbon-capture ready.”

Coal gasification is a versatile and clean way to convert coal into electricity, hydrogen and other energy products, but coal-based IGCC plants still are not fully commercial and IGCC is 10 percent to 20 percent more expensive than a conventional coal combustion plant.

“We need to find advanced technologies to drive those costs down,” Stiegel said, “and at DOE we’re working on a number of different projects to do that.”

IGCC capital costs are high, Wendt said, particularly in China where the comparative cost of putting in a standard coal-powered plant is much lower than in the United States.

“But the gap is narrowing in both countries and the benefits are enormous,” he added. “Our belief is that by bringing the parties together to understand these benefits and to reach an understanding on how they’re going to share the costs and the risks, this needed technology can get jump-started in China.”

---

## WHITE HOUSE SPONSORS FIRST INTERNATIONAL LITERACY CONFERENCE

First lady announces \$1 million contribution to UNESCO reading program

By Judy Aita  
Washington File Staff Writer

New York -- Welcoming representatives of more than 75 nations to the inaugural White House Conference on Global Literacy, U.S. first lady Laura Bush challenged governments to educate all people -- men, women and children, rich and poor -- and urged private-sector organizations to dedicate their resources to ending illiteracy.

Investment in education, she said, “no matter how significant, is always worthwhile, because investing in literacy and education helps governments meet their fundamental obligations by improving opportunities for children and families, by strengthening their economies and by keeping their citizens in good health.”

The first lady announced a \$1 million U.S. contribution to the Literacy Assessment and Monitoring Program (LAMP) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Through LAMP, many countries are working to determine which people in their country cannot read, where people live who cannot read and why people cannot read. That information will help remove obstacles to reading, the first lady said.

The site of the conference -- the New York Public Library -- provided a moving testament to the power of reading. The library, one of the greatest in the world, has books and artifacts spanning 5,000 years. It has scholarly research collec-

tions and a network of community libraries. Virtually all the library's many collections and services are free to all. In fact, the library says on its Web site, it has "but one criterion for admission: curiosity."

Literacy, said Paul LeClerc, president of The New York Public Library, "is the greatest gift a government can give to its citizens."

From the personal experiences shared by conference leaders to the panelists who discussed programs in their countries, the emphasis was on the significance of simple gestures in helping others to read and the importance of instilling the value of education. They all shared a commitment to the international fight to eradicate illiteracy, promote education and give children -- and, if necessary, adults -- a chance to read.

Laura Bush was accompanied by her daughter Barbara and her mother-in-law, former first lady Barbara Bush, who also made literacy her focus during her time in the White House.

"We represent three generations of women who love to read," the first lady said. "Reading, in fact, is so important to us -- is such a part of our lives -- that our lives have been built around it.

"My mother loved to read and she taught me to love reading. I liked reading so much that I made it into my career by becoming a teacher and a librarian," she said.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice also attended the conference, and spoke of the value her own grandfather had placed on education. An African-American sharecropper in segregated Alabama at the beginning of the 20th century, her grandfather found a way to get a college education -- or "book learning," as he called it.

Her grandfather "passed that commitment on to his family through generations. Our lives were transformed by education," Rice said. "I have no doubt that education is the single greatest force for equality in the world."

The variety of successful literacy programs highlighted at this first session centered around three areas: mother-child literacy and intergenerational learning, literacy for health, and literacy for economic self-sufficiency.

Participants discussed nine programs that can serve as models for other communities and nations.

Panelists on the mother-child literacy program were Maria Diarra Keita, founding director of the Institute for Popular Education in Mali, Florence Molefe, facilitator of the Family Literacy Project in South Africa, and Perri Klass, president of the Reach Out and Read National Center in the United States.

Hasina Mojadidi, instructional development coordinator for Learning for Life in Afghanistan, Salah Sabri Sebeh, head of the Basic Education Sector of Caritas Egypt, and Gonzalo Fiorilo, director of ALFALIT, Bolivia, gave presentations on literacy for health.

Discussing literacy for economic self-sufficiency were Koumba Boly Barry, coordinator of the directorate for development and cooperation of the Program for Literacy and Training in Burkina Faso, C. Krishna Mohan Rao, deputy director of the directorate of adult education of the government of Andhra Pradesh in India, and Regina Celia Esteves de Siqueira, chief executive officer of ALFASOL in Brazil.

More than 200 first ladies and spouses, ministers of education, foundation representatives, library experts and nongovernmental organization representatives attended the half-day program.

**Pleases Note:** Most texts and transcript mentioned in the U.S. Mission Daily Bulletin are available via our homepage: <http://geneva.usmission.gov/>